Dear Families:

From now to the end of the year, Mr. Russell’s class will be creating personal Weblogs in order to share information and complete classroom activates. These Weblogs will be used by students to write about current event articles that occurred during the week.

A Weblog, or blog as they are commonly called, is a special type of Web page that can be created and easily updated using a Web browser. Each new entry has its own date stamp. Each entry has a comments section where visitors to the blog may leave comments for the author.

**How it Works**

Each week students will be required to post at least one article review on the blog. These reviews will ask students to summarize the information and provide their opinion about the event. Students will also be required to comment on at least one fellow student’s blog entry during the week. Both the comments and blog entries will be monitored by me to ensure that student’s maintain appropriate school behavior.

In order for students to post on the blog they must have access to a Google account. In order to meet this need, I intend to walk students through the creation of a Google account and invite each one of them to the blog so they can make and edit posts.

Students will also be creating accounts to something called a Protopage. Protopage is a way for me to give students easy access to information that will help them complete their assignments and keep track of when things are going to be due in the classroom. This page cannot be edited by students but the accounts will allow them to keep track of their weekly assignments and post comments about interesting events.

My hope is that by using all of these resources your students will be able to learn more about events taking place in the world in combination with learning the technical skills they will need to succeed in an increasingly technological society.

**Security**

This blogging project is designed to minimize risk to your child. The only personally identifying information included in the blog will be their first name. There will be no mention of our school name or our location. Students are allowed to post their interests and opinions, but not their age, email address, photographs of themselves, or other sensitive information.

**Assessment**

The weekly blog posts will be part of your students overall grade. I will be keeping track of what students are posting blogs and when.

**Resources**

- The Classroom blog students will be using:

<http://therclass.blogspot.com/>

- The Protopage students will be accessing in order to help them find the resources they need:

<http://www.protopage.com/rudianr>

**Permission**

Before your child may start posting to their blog, we are asking for you and your child to discuss and sign the following form. Please return the form to Mr. Russell.

***Blogging Terms and Conditions*** (Signature on back)

1. Students using blogs are expected to act safely by keeping personal information out of their posts. You agree to not post or give out your family name, password, user name, email address, home address, school name, city, country or other information that could help someone locate or contact you in person. You may share your interests, ideas and preferences.

2. Students using blogs agree not to share their user name or password with anyone besides their teachers and parents. You agree to never log in as another student.

3. Students using blogs are expected to treat blogspaces as classroom spaces. Speech that is inappropriate for class is not appropriate for your blog. While we encourage you to engage in debate and conversation with other bloggers, we also expect that you will conduct yourself in a manner reflective of a representative of this school.

4. Student blogs are to be a forum for student expression. However, they are first and foremost a tool for learning, and as such will sometimes be constrained by the various requirements and rules of classroom teachers. Students are welcome to post on any school-appropriate subject.

5. Students blogs are to be a vehicle for sharing student writing with real audiences. Most visitors to your blog who leave comments will leave respectful, helpful messages. If you receive a comment that makes you feel uncomfortable or is not respectful, tell your teacher right away. Do not respond to the comment.

6. Students using blogs take good care of the computers by not downloading or installing any software without permission, and not clicking on ads or competitions.

7. Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in this project.

I have read and understood these blogging terms and conditions. I agree to uphold them.

student’s signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

parent’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_